

Volunteers and Older Adults

(See Also: [Intergenerational Programs](#))

Volunteers of all ages have traditionally been the backbone of community services in the non-profit sector. Although corporations have long recognized the value of encouraging employees to serve as volunteers in their community, older adults who consider themselves “retired” provide, perhaps, the most reliable service given their experience and maturity. Their value has increased by changes in workforce and employment patterns, including the necessity in many families for two incomes and extended hours of work. Rising health care and energy costs impact the number of older adults willingly to volunteer services, as more adults on fixed income see the need for being paid for their services. Links on this page identify public policy issues, resources for organizations dependent on volunteers, and national programs expressly targeting recruitment of older volunteers for community service.

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Older Volunteers – Who Are They?

Volunteer Opportunities and Older Americans

(U.S. Administration on Aging)

http://www.aoa.gov/eldfam/Volunteer_Opps/Volunteer_Opps.asp

The Older Volunteer Resource - book excerpt

(National Academy of Sciences)

<http://books.nap.edu/books/0309036372/html/51.html - pagetop>

The Cost of Volunteer Programs

(Center for Medicare Education)

<http://66.241.229.101/content/CMEPubDocs/V1N8.pdf>

Managing Volunteers

(Center for Medicare Education)

<http://66.241.229.101/content/CMEPubDocs/V1N7.pdf>

Aging Service Programs Using Older Volunteers

Volunteer Program Startup

(Freedom Corps)

http://www.usafreedomcorps.gov/for_organizations/non_profits/success/startup.asp

Join Senior Service

<https://www.joinseniorservice.org/framework.asp>

Senior Medicare Patrol

(U.S. Administration on Aging)

<http://www.aoa.gov/smp/senior/senior.asp>

Senior Corps

(Corporation for National Service)

<http://www.seniorcorps.org/index.html>

Experience Corps

<http://www.experiencecorps.org/>

Foster Grandparents Program [including index of local programs]

(Corporation for National and Community Service)

<http://www.seniorcorps.org/joining/fgp/index.html>

Retired Senior Volunteer Program [RSVP] [including index of local programs]

(Corporation for National and Community Service)

<http://www.seniorcorps.org/joining/rsvp/index.html>

Senior Companion Program [including index of local programs]

(Corporation for National and Community Service)

<http://www.seniorcorps.org/joining/scp/index.html>

Seniors for Schools [including index of local programs]

(Corporation for National and Community Service)

<http://www.seniorcorps.org/joining/seniors4schools.html>

Joint Senior Service Now!

(Corporation for National and Community Service)

<https://www.joinseniorservice.org/framework.asp>

The Senior Corps WE-Based Recruitment System

(American Society on Aging)

<http://www.asaging.org/volunteers/>

Service Corps of Retired Executives

<http://www.score.org/>

Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement

<http://www.easi.org/>

SAVE - Senior Attorney Volunteers for the Elderly

<http://www.abanet.org/srlawyers/save.html>

Becoming a CASA Volunteer

(Court Appointed Special Advocate - CASA)

<http://www.nationalcasa.org/volunteer/index.htm>

Volunteers of America

http://www.voa.org/tier2_ka.cfm?folder_id=118

Seniors in the Peace Corps

<http://www.peacecorps.gov/diversity/older/index.cfm>

Time Dollar Institute

<http://www.timedollar.org/>

Head Start

<http://www.nhsa.org/about/about%5Fpartners%5Fbtg.htm>

OASIS

<http://www.oasisnet.org/volunteer.htm>

Pen Pals for Nursing Home Residents

(A Friendly Word)

<http://www.afriendlyword.com/>

Volunteers in Health Care

<http://www.volunteersinhealthcare.org/home.htm>

State and Local Volunteer Programs [Examples]**Senior Gleaners**

<http://www.seniorgleaners.org/>

Volunteering

(Mid Florida Area Agency on Aging)

<http://www.mfaaa.org/voldir/cntycat.html>

Volunteer Opportunities

(Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley)

<http://www.esmv.org/come-join-us/volunteering.htm>

Volunteer Opportunities

(Detroit Eldernet)

http://comnet.org/detroiteldernet/_private/answers/active/volopp.htm

Resources for Seniors

(Volunteer Opportunities)

<http://www.resourcesforseniors.com/volunter.html>

Seniors vs. Crime

(Florida State Attorney General)

<http://www.senior-sleuths.org/>

Volunteers

(Five City Transportation Program)

<http://www.5citiesmn.org/Volunteers.htm>

Poulsbo Police Department's Senior Volunteers Program

(City of Poulsbo, Washington)

<http://www.cityofpoulsbo.com/Departments/Police/police-seniorvolunteers.html>

Senior Volunteers Improve Public Safety (West Covina, California)

(Community Policing)

<http://www.communitypolicing.org/publications/artbytop/w6/w6houst.htm>

Paid and Volunteer Staffing in Aging Network

Volunteers in the Aging Network

Part B: Ombudsman Part G: State Agencies Part H: Area Agencies on Aging

(U.S. Administration on Aging)

<http://www.aoa.gov/prof/agingnet/NAPIS/SPR/2001SPR/profiles/US.pdf>

Area Agency on Aging Staffing: FY1999

(U.S. Administration on Aging)

<http://www.aoa.gov/napis/99spr/tables/FY 1999 Table 11b. Area Agency on Aging Staffing.PDF>

State Agency on Aging Staffing: FY 1999

(U.S. Administration on Aging)

<http://www.aoa.gov/napis/99spr/tables/FY 1999 Table 11a. State Agency on Aging Staffing.PDF>

Staff and Volunteers – Long Term Care Ombudsman Program

(U.S. Administration on Aging)

<http://www.aoa.gov/ltombudsman/2001nors/A-8 Staff vol.xls>

Surveys, Reports and General Resources

Volunteering Statistics and Sources of Data

(Association of Volunteer Administrators)

<http://www.avaintl.org/resources/statistics.html>

Americas Senior Volunteers

(Independent Sector)

http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/senior_volunteers_in_america.html

America's Social Fabric ~A Status Report

(AARP)

http://research.aarp.org/general/civic_inv1.html

Volunteer Management/ Service Leadership On-line Resources

(Service Leader)

<http://www.serviceleader.org/manage/>

Giving and Volunteering in the United States - 2001

(Independent Sector)

<http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/GV01main.html>

Study of Older Volunteers in 25 Organizations

(Institute for Volunteering Research)

<http://www.ivr.org.uk/potential.htm>

Senior Volunteers as Assets

(University of Hawaii)

<http://www.hawaii.edu/aging/volunteer.html>

Motives and Incentives of Older Volunteers

Shirley B. Rouse and Barbara Clawson

(Journal of Extension)

<http://joe.org/joe/1992fall/a1.html>

Volunteer Today – The Electronic Gazette for Volunteerism

<http://www.volunteertoday.com/>

A History of Senior Service in America

(James MacGregor Burns Academy of Leadership)

http://www.academy.umd.edu/publications/NationalService/senior_service.htm

Volunteer Management Bibliography

(Energize Inc.)

<http://energizeinc.com/art/biblio2.html>

2001 Delaware Member Survey: Volunteerism

(AARP)

http://research.aarp.org/general/vol_de_2001.html

Conferences, Courses and Articles

International Year of Volunteers 2001 – Follow-up

<http://www.iyv2001.org/>

Courses in Volunteer Management at Institutions of Higher Education

(Service Leader)

<http://www.serviceleader.org/training/courses.html>

Senior Volunteers are Neither Shy Nor Retiring

(Kibbles and Bits)

<http://www.bestfriends.org/sanctuary/kibbles/seniorvols.htm>

Seniors Tutoring Students in Reading

(Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory)

http://www.nwrel.org/nwreport/mar01/senior_tutors.html

Senior Volunteers Improve Public Safety

(Community Policing Organization)

<http://www.communitypolicing.org/publications/artbytop/w6/w6houst.htm>

Reinventing Retirement

(St. Louis Senior Circuit)

<http://www.todaysseniors.com/finance/reinventing.shtml>

Preparing for Retirement - Care for Elderly Today, Be Paid Back Tomorrow

(CBS News)

http://abcnews.go.com/sections/wnt/WorldNewsTonight/wnt010122_China_timebank_feature.html

Peace Corps: Rewards for Older Volunteers Modern Maturity March/April 1999

(AARP)

http://www.aarp.org/mmaturity/mar_apr99/peace.html

Efforts of Older Volunteers Transform a School

(Christian Science Monitor)

<http://www.csmonitor.com/durable/1997/11/18/feat/feat.2.html>

BMC: 03/12/03

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